



Meeting of States Parties

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Special Meeting
New York, 30 January 2008

Report of the Special Meeting of States Parties

I. Introduction

1. The Special Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was held at Headquarters on 30 January 2008 to elect one member of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, in accordance with article 4 of annex VI to the Convention (Statute of the Tribunal). The election was to fill, for the remainder of the term ending on 30 September 2011, the seat vacated by the resignation of Judge Guangjian Xu (China) on 15 August 2007. Pursuant to article 6, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Tribunal, the date of the election was fixed by the President of the Tribunal after consultation with the States parties. The convening of the Meeting was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/215 (para. 26).

2. The Meeting had before it the following documents: a note by the Registrar of the Tribunal on the election procedures (SPLOS/165); the list of candidates nominated by States Parties (SPLOS/166); and the curriculum vitae of a candidate nominated by the Government of China (SPLOS/167).

II. Opening of the Special Meeting

3. Rosemary Banks (New Zealand), President of the Seventeenth Meeting of States Parties, opened the Special Meeting.

4. The Meeting observed a minute of silent prayer or meditation.

5. For the purposes of conducting its business, the Special Meeting decided to retain the composition of the Bureau, including the Presidency, as elected, and the composition of the Credentials Committee as appointed by the Seventeenth Meeting. In doing so, the Meeting followed the practice established by the first Special Meeting of States Parties, held in August 2003.



III. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

6. The President introduced the provisional agenda (SPLOS/L.53). The Meeting adopted the agenda (SPLOS/168) and approved the organization of work, as outlined by the President.

IV. Report of the Credentials Committee

7. The Credentials Committee held its meeting on 30 January 2008 under the Chairmanship of Ridas Petkus (Lithuania). Following that meeting, the Chairman of the Credentials Committee introduced the report of the Credentials Committee (SPLOS/169),¹ which was approved by the Special Meeting.

V. Election of one member of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

8. The President made a statement on the election procedures, recalling articles 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the Statute of the Tribunal, as well as rule 70 of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings of States Parties (SPLOS/2/Rev.4).

9. The election required one round of balloting during which the representatives of Chile, Germany and Tunisia acted as tellers.

10. Of the 137 ballots cast, with no invalid ballot and one abstention, a majority of 91 votes was required for the election, provided that such majority included a majority of the States parties (78, at the time of the election). In the first round of balloting, Zhiguo Gao received 136 votes and was thus elected for the remainder of his predecessor's term of nine years, which ends on 30 September 2011.

11. The President made a statement congratulating Zhiguo Gao on his election as a member of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. The representative of China made a statement in which he expressed his Government's appreciation to States parties for their support.

¹ In addition to the States listed in that report, three States (Bangladesh, India and Mauritania) sent official communications to the Secretariat.